



Tapuitea

...ina ia manino le folauā.

Official American Samoa Government Weekly Newsletter



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In This Issue:

*Policy
Academy on
Returning
Veterans and
Their Families
Pg. 2*

*Governor
Togiola
attends US
Coral Reef
Task Force
Meeting
Pg. 3*

*ASCC/CNR
Awards
Scholarships
Pg. 4*

*AS-SBDC
Receives
Chamber of
Commerce
Award
Pg. 5*

*National
Geodetic
Survey
Projects
Pg. 6*

*Historical Notes
& much, much
more...*

*For additional
news,
information
and much,
much, more
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Territory to benefit from the US Energy Department's Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons Program (WAP)

Governor Togiola Tulafono has described the US Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons Program (WAP) as "a blessing" for the residents of American Samoa.

According to David E. Rogers, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency for the Department of Energy in Washington DC, the Department of Energy administers the Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons Program which reduces energy costs for low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, while ensuring their health and safety. The Program gives priority of services to the elderly, people with disabilities, and families with children.

In an August 21 letter to

Governor Togiola, Rogers explained that up until the Energy Independence and Security Act --which was enacted on December 19, 2007-- the U.S. Territories were not included in the Program. But with the passage of the Act, American Samoa, other territories, and Puerto Rico are now added to the definition of "State" for the purpose of the Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons Program.

"The additions to the definition require that the formula for determining grant amounts be amended in the regulations for WAP," Rogers wrote, adding that participation in WAP requires identification of a Territory agency or office that will be responsible for administering the Program."

Governor Togiola Tulafono expressed his thanks to the

Department of Energy for the Weatherization Assistance Program and has selected the Territorial Energy Office to be responsible for administering the program.

"The Weatherization Program is one of the largest energy conservation programs in the nation," Togiola said. "It is a program that provides great assistance to our low-income families with elderly residents, individuals with disabilities, and families with children, and it reduces their home energy consumption and lowers their energy bills."

He concluded, "With the energy costs on the rise, this program is a blessing. I am very glad that many families in American Samoa will benefit from this program."

GRANT WRITING SEMINAR

December 15-18, 2008

Sponsored by: NIH: Summit on Science on Eliminating Health Disparities

For more info visit website: <http://www.blsmeetings.net/2008healthdisparitiessummit/>

Working group preparing Action Plan to present to Governor regarding veterans and their families

American Samoa was represented at the Policy Academy on Returning Veterans and Their Families by a 10-person delegation composed of representatives from the Governor's Office, the Department of Health, the LBJ Medical Center, the Department of Human and Social Services, the local VA Office, Office of Veterans Affairs, and military veterans.

The entourage was led by Dr. Oreta Togafau of the Governor's Office.

The event, which took place in Bethesda, Maryland from August 11-13, was sponsored by the US Department of Health and Human Services (led by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), the US Department of Defense, and the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

In order to participate, states were required to submit proposals and in the end, 10 states including American Samoa (the only US territory), were selected.

The listed goals and objectives include:

- ★ Assisting state and local policymakers in developing an ACTION PLAN intended to expand access to effective treatment for returning veterans and their families;
- ★ Creating and/or reinforcing relationships among the Governor's Office, state legislators, key state and local program administrators, and other stakeholders from the public and private sectors;
- ★ Providing an environment conducive to the process of strategic decision-making within the context of mental health, substance abuse and co-occurring conditions, services, and supports for returning veterans and their families; and
- ★ Assisting state and local policymakers in identifying issues or areas of concern that may result in a formal request for technical assistance.

The potential outcome(s) include but are not limited to Executive Orders, legislation, budget proposals/funding mechanisms, interagency agreements (MOU), informal partnerships, and program standards/guidelines – licensure requirements.

The traveling delegation came home with an Action Plan draft noting the vision statement: "Seuga aua lau Seuga" - To Honor Returning Veterans and Their Families for Serving Our Country.

According to Jacinta Galea'i, communications director for the Governor's Office, listed priorities for the action plan include the establishment of an Integrated Service System for all returning veterans and their families; creation of a data collection system; and a legislation/fiscal policy.

Noted strategies that will be put into practice to ensure the goal is met include the development of workforce opportunities for the veterans, as well as increase in employment opportunities and continuity of care for them, in addition to outreach/prevention programs in the community.

According to Galea'i, the working group is committed to refining and ensuring the implementation of the Action Plan in order to meet the needs of returning veterans and their families. The group's next meeting will be held sometime next week where they plan to finalize the Action Plan and present it to Governor Togiola Tulafono, local leaders and most importantly, the veterans and their families.

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With: Gov. Togiola Tulafono

***On: Showers of Blessings FM 104.7
Saturdays @ 7a.m.- 9:00a.m. Call: 699-8123/8124***

Governor Togiola attends US Coral Reef Task Force Meeting in Kona

(KONA) - Governor Togiola Tulafono this week attended the US Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) meeting in Kona, Hawaii, which included a joint presentation with Samoa Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi on the Two Samoas Environmental Collaboration Initiative.

Today Governor Togiola joined Prime Minister Tuilaepa, who was invited to the meeting by the Governor, to present the Two Samoas Environmental Collaboration Initiative -- a recently established collaboration between American Samoa and Independent State of Samoa to jointly research, manage and conserve coral reef resources in both jurisdictions.

"As a proud people with the same culture and traditions, Prime Minister Tuilaepa and I are very proud of our joint effort," said Governor Togiola. "It is our prayer and hope that it will be a model to forge international relationships as a Pacific network for resource protection."

Governor Togiola also said the Two Samoas Initiative is a response to the inter-connectedness of the Samoan Archipelago and the variety of shared species and resources between American Samoa and Samoa.

The Initiative was well received by the USCRTF meeting where they offered their support of the collaboration.

On Wednesday this week, Governor Togiola met with Mr. Ronald Baird, Chief Executive Officer of Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority, to discuss alternative energy.

Governor Togiola also met with Mr. Michael Kaleikini, Plant Manager of Puna Geothermal Venture, where they talked about potential opportunities to explore alternative energy sources in the Territory.

Yesterday, Governor Togiola Tulafono

visited Imiloa Astronomy Center at the University of Hawaii - Hilo campus where he met with Chancellor Rose Tseng and Interim Vice Chancellor for Research - Dr. Michael Crosby to discuss scholarship and internship opportunities for American Samoa students in marine biology and science.

On a tour of Imiloa Astronomy Center, Governor Togiola visited the facility which promotes the learning science from both a traditional journey of the creation of the Hawaiian islands to conventional research capacities.

Also, while in Hilo, Governor Togiola visited the Mokupapapa Discovery Center, a 4,000 square foot facility overlooking the bay which was opened in 2003 and is free to the public. The center was constructed to interpret the natural science, culture, and history of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and surrounding marine environment.

Governor Togiola said the visit to the center allowed him to discuss his plans with Mr. Daniel Basta, Director of NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries Program, who accompanied him on the visit to Hilo.

"We have a great plan to enhance the Territory's efforts to increase awareness and promote marine biology, science and research capacities by building a Territorial Marine Science Center," said Governor Togiola. "It will be a learning experience center where the abundant natural life of our ocean wilderness and marine environment will come to life to study and appreciate. I believe we can raise the funds to build this center for American Samoa."

The meeting in Kona is the final meeting of the USCRTF during the International Year of the Reef and also coincides with the 10th anniversary of the Task Force.

Chairman of the White House Council

on Environmental Quality, Jim Connaughton, announced at the meeting of President Bush's recent memo to conduct Pacific wide assessments of potential marine monuments that heighten protection of special ecological, biological and scientific areas such as Rose Atoll.

In April, Governor Togiola requested in a letter to President Bush to designate Rose Atoll as a National Marine Monument that would allow further protection to 12 nautical miles of this special area and to provide enhanced resources to conserve it.

The USCRTF meeting highlighted several key matters which included a "New Roadmap" and "Framework for Action" which are both are intended to improve the coral reef management and provide more effective action to combat climate change, and emerging challenges within protection of ocean and coastal resources.

The USCRTF is responsible for developing and implementing coordinated efforts to map and monitor U.S. coral reefs; research the causes of, and solutions to coral reef decline; reduce and mitigate coral reef degradation from pollution, over fishing and other causes; and implement strategies to promote conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs internationally.

Governor Togiola attended the meeting with First Lady Mary Ann Tulafono, Commerce Director - Faleseu Eliu Paopao, Marine & Wildlife Resources Director - Ufagafa Ray Tulafono, Commerce Deputy Director - Lelei Peau.

Governor Togiola will travel next week to California for the Los Angeles Trade Expo slated for September 5th. He will return to the Territory on Sunday, September 7th.

ASCC/CNR Awards Scholarships for Off-Island Studies

By ASCC/CNR Staff

As part of an effort to attract and support undergraduate and graduate in identified areas of national need in the food, agricultural and life sciences, and also to increase the number of American Samoans with higher degrees (Bachelors, Masters, PhDs) in the food, agricultural and life sciences, the Community & Natural Resources Division (CNR) at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) held its first Off-Island Awards Ceremony last week.

Through federal funding from Caribbean-Pacific (CariPac) and Agricultural Development in the American Pacific (ADAP) Projects under the Bachelor Degree Studies Scholarship category, the ASCC-CNR Scholarship Committee chose five recent graduates, each of whom received a total of \$5,000 in funding for the fall 2008 and spring 2009 semesters as they continue their studies off-island towards a degree in general agriculture, natural resources, agribusiness, family consumer science or other agriculture-related fields.

The five selected scholarship recipients include Ana-Alicia Pouono Alvarado, currently attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa as a Biology major, and twin sister Ana-Stacia Usoali'i Alvarado, pursuing a twin major in the same field also at UH Manoa.

Of the other recipients, Tautasi Falanai has entered Chaminade University to major in Biochemistry; Selaima Ellen Larkin has begun studies at Brigham Young University in Hawai'i as a Biology major, and Faiane Jacinta Miller will soon begin her second term at Oregon State University (OSU) majoring in Natural Resources.

Of this lucky five, only Faiane Miller, daughter of local KHJ Radio newscaster Monica Miller and musician/educator Harry Miller, could personally attend the award ceremony. While the other four attend schools where a new semester has commenced, OSU goes by terms rather than semesters, which allowed Faiane to spend some additional time here at home before returning to the mainland. Parents of the other award recipients attended the ceremony on their offspring's behalf.

Scholarship Committee member and CNR Instructional Coordinator Malagamaali'i Tavita Elisara said that the institution has received funding to maintain the scholarship program, at least for the time being. *(Continued on page 6)*

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On September 1, 1872, the Catholic community in Samoa "received its first Samoan postulants (later to become Sister Mary St. Vincent and Sister Mary St. André)" of the Sisters of Notre Dame des Missions

On September 2, 1879, a municipal convention was held in Apia between Malietoa Laupepa and the "Three Consuls" (of Britain, Germany and the United States). Under the terms of this agreement, "the Samoan Government gave up all jurisdiction over the town, harbour and neighbourhood of Apia. A Municipal Board was created, consisting of the Three Consuls and one nominee of each, with rating powers and a magistrate to enforce its regulations and redress complaints. One of its first regulations forbade the sale of liquor to a Pacific islander."

On September 1, 1912, the new Samoan Hospital was completed at Malaloa, Tutuila. It consisted of a wooden central administration building which contained an examining room, dispensary, lavatory and dressing room, with an outbuilding for kitchen, baths, latrines and a storeroom. A windmill was erected near the beach to pump water to a 10,000-gallon tank located 60 feet above the level of the main building.

On September 1, 1935, the Feleti School for Boys, named after Frederic DuClos ("Feleti") Barstow, was opened at Le'ala, Tutuila, American Samoa.

On September 1, 1952, the Department of the Interior assigned advisory responsibility for the supervision of the newly organized dependents' school on Canton Island (in the Phoenix Islands, Micronesia) to the American Samoa Government's Department of Education.

On September 3, 1900, Commander Benjamin F. Tilley issued his "Regulations Nos. 15 and 16: Public Highways in Pago Pago," which established a public highway at the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila "from Blunts Point on the southern side of Pago Pago Harbor, toward Observatory Point and around the harbor to Breaker[s] Point on the northern side of the harbor, along the shore at high-water mark of a uniform width of 15 feet distant inland from the shore."

On September 3, 1945, Captain Samuel Wakefield Canan relieved Captain Ralph Waldo Hungerford and began his eight-day term as American Samoa's 32nd naval governor (acting: until September 10, 1945).

On September 4, 1923, Captain Edward Stanley Kellogg succeeded Captain Edwin Taylor Pollock, and took office as the 15th naval governor of American Samoa (until March 17, 1925).

On September 5, 1888, the German warship SMS *Adler* ("Eagle") shelled Manono and Apolima, which were strongholds of Malietoa's forces. **On September 5, 1941**, ten rounds were fired from each of the newly-situated six-inch guns at Breakers Point, Tutuila, at a stationary raft in Pago Pago Harbor.

On September 5, 1996, the *Aiga Tautai o Samoa* (Samoan Voyaging Society) successfully launched its repaired 'alia (double-hulled voyaging canoe), formerly named *Mana o Samoa*, and now rechristened as *Folaua o Samoa*, in Pago Pago Harbor. The vessel was dedicated by American Samoa's Governor, A.P. Lutali, and was donated to the people of American Samoa.

American Samoa Small Business Development Center Receives Chamber of Commerce Award

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

During its first Annual Awards Night this past Friday, the American Samoa Chamber of Commerce presented the American Samoa Small Business Development Center (SBDC) an award for "Support of Business Development". For Director Herbert Thweatt and his staff, the award marks the first occasion where the SBDC has received public acknowledgement for its many years of encouraging the growth of small businesses in the territory. As Thweatt explained, "We've worked with the business community for over four years now, and for an official local organization to recognize us for our effort really means a lot to us."

The local SBDC, located on the campus of the American Samoa Community College (ASCC), began in 2000 but effectively hit its stride after Thweatt assumed the directorship in 2004. Working with its resource partner the U.S. Small Business Administration, the SBDC now provides a wide array of services to help small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs. "As part of our mission," said Thweatt, "we aim to enhance economic growth and assist individuals in American Samoa by developing entrepreneurial skills among small businesses. We serve the broader business community through counseling, training, research, advocacy, and other resources and activities."

The SBDC business counselors will help clients who want to start or expand their businesses write busi-

ness plans and research funding. Clients need only make an appointment with the Center to receive these services free of charge. The Center networks with Bank of Hawaii, Amerika Samoa Bank, and the Development Bank of American Samoa, who will often refer clients to the SBDC to develop a business plan before they apply for a commercial business loan. SBDC also offers various training seminars, such as Grant Writing, Business Start-Up, Customer Service, Marketing for Small Business, Business Licensing, QuickBooks, Korean Language for Small Business, Basic Computer Software for Small Business, MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, and MS Access for Database. SBDC charges only a nominal fee for most of these seminars to cover the cost of materials.

Looking over the Center's 2007 statistics, SBDC counseled 289 clients, played a part in the start-up of 22 new businesses, and helped create 50 new jobs. 186 clients attended one or more of the various seminars offered last year. To find out more about upcoming seminars or to register, visit the SBDC web page at www.as-sbdc.org. Anyone can make an appointment for free business counseling by calling 699-4830 or 699-4834. Besides Thweatt, the SBDC staff consists of Division Manager June Paogofie-Tagomailagi, Counselor Elaine Baul, and Administrative Assistant Catherine Balauro.

An SBDC mainstay since 2005, Paogofie-Tagomailagi echoed Thweatt's gratitude for the recent award from the Chamber of Commerce. "I think receiving the award makes it evident that the job we do yields positive results," she reflected. "I thank you American Samoa Chamber of Commerce for this recognition." South Seas Broadcasting Manager Joey Cummings, who served as Committee Chair for the Awards Night, explained that the Chamber of Commerce Executive Board made its selection of award recipients based on ballots received from Chamber members and the general public.



Director Herbert Thweatt (left) receives the "Supports Business Development" award on behalf of the American Samoa Small Business Development Center, a partner of ASCC. On the right is David Robinson, Presidnet of the American Samoa Chamber of Commerce, who held their Annual Awards Night this past Friday.

(Photo Courtesy SBDC)



ASCC/CNR graduate Ms. Fiane Miller (second right) celebrates receiving a scholarship with (l-r) CNR Instructional Coordinator Malagamaali'i Tavita Elisara, her mother Monica Miller, and CNR Extension Coordinator Aufa'i Apulu Ropeti Areta. Fiane will use the scholarship to continue her current studies at Oregon State University. Four other recent ASCC graduates also received awards for off-island studies in natural resources and related fields.

(Photo: J. Kneubuhl)

ASCC/CNR Scholarships... *(continued from page 4)*

However, CNR Dean and Director Tapa'au Dr. Daniel Mageo Aga said, "The good news is that the fourth phase of the resident instruction grant proposal has been accepted to provide more scholarships for students next year. After that, the continuation of the program will depend on the availability of federal funds. Malagamaali'i added, "Hopefully the academic performance by the current group of scholarship recipients will set a precedent that leads our funding source to consider this scholarship program favorably for American Samoa."

Besides Tapa'au and Malagamaali'i, the Scholarship Committee included CNR Extension Coordinator Aufa'i Apulu Ropeti Areta, CNR Research Coordinator Dr. Donald Vargo, and ASCC Dean of Student Services Dr. Emilia Le'i. Interested ASCC Students majoring in Natural Resources or related fields applied for the scholarships during the spring 2008 semester, and the Committee subsequently screened, evaluated and selected the winners from among the candidates, and set the conditions of the scholarship agreement.

As Malagamaali'i reflected, "On this happy occasion, I give credit to the great vision and leadership of Tapa'au Dr. Daniel Mageo Aga on making this project a success, and to the unending support of ASCC President, Dr. Seth P. Galea'i for the endorsement of the scholarship opportunities in an effort to help students achieve their career goals and meet workplace needs. The ASCC President, CNR Dean and Director, and members of the Scholarship Committee once again congratulate the five recipients and wish them the best of luck in their studies off island."

National Geodetic Survey Projects Aug. 19 through Sep. 4, 2008

The American Samoa Government (ASG), Department of Human Resources (HR) in collaboration with the Development Bank of American Samoa (DBAS) were glad to facilitate a meeting with GIS and GPS professionals to discuss the continuous projects sponsored by National Geodetic Survey (NGS) in 2008.

NGS, a division of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), defines and manages a national coordinate system. This network, the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), provides the foundation for transportation and communication in mapping and charting and a multitude of scientific and engineering applications.

NGS also develops Federal standards for geodetic surveys and helps to coordinate surveying methods. NGS state geodetic advisors are stationed in several states to work with local communities in expanding their surveying capabilities.

The NGS office in Hawaii has assigned one of its most skilled employees Mr. Ed Carlson, the Pacific Region Geodetic Advisor, to American Samoa to evaluate the current status of many ongoing projects initiated in 2000 and 2003.

Mr. Carlson began his career with NGS in 1973. Since then, he has participated in the adjustment of the North American Datum on 1983 (NAD 83), as well as project planning, reviewing and validating GPS data post-processing, development and evaluation of the guidelines for determining ellipsoid and orthometric heights using GPS techniques.

He is currently working as the Pacific Region Geodetic Advisor, part of the NGS state advisor program. This program provides a liaison between NGS and each participating state to guide and assist the state's geodetic in charting, surveying, providing quality assurance, and with assistance in preparing data for inclusion into the National Spatial Reference System. He also serves as a primary contact for relating user needs to NGS and for transferring new technical developments to local users.

The ASG HR department and DBAS sponsored a meeting last Thursday, August 28, (at the Feleti Barstow Library) to facilitate the exchange of information on Mr. Carlson's activities during his two week visit.